
CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



RELEASE DATE: August 19, 2016

TIME: 2:00pm

LOWER LAKE RESIDENTS MAY RETURN HOME SOON

Lake County – Emergency responders, including the Lake County Fire Protection District, the Lake County Sheriff's Office, CAL FIRE, CHP, as well as the Lake County Department of Public Health, PG & E, AT&T, and Lower Lake Water District #1 are nearing completion of work necessary to allow entrance into the areas in Lower Lake affected by the Clayton Fire.

The following informational messages are provided to assist returning property owners:

PG&E-

If you see electrical wires on the ground, stay clear and contact PG&E immediately. Trees and poles with deep charring, particularly if still smoking, should be considered hazardous. PG&E would like to remind everyone that, "As you return to your home, please do not connect a generator without a licensed electrician. Also there may be other hazards present that you should be mindful of as you return."

PG&E is ready to assist and will have a mobile command vehicle, customer service and reconnection staff to answer questions and provide resources. This will be located at 9960 Highway 53 in Lower Lake, in the Century 21 parking lot. PG&E can also be contacted by dialing 1 (800) 743-5000.

AT&T-

Crew members have completed some initial repairs and continue to work around the clock to restore landline service to remaining affected areas in Lake County. All wireless service is running normally.

Wires may be on the ground as crews continue with repair work. We advise residents to not touch those wires. Customers impacted by the Clayton Wildfire can call the following numbers for help with their service:

U-verse and Landline Call Center 1-800-288-2020

DIRECTV Call Center 1-800-531-5000

Lake County Behavioral Health-

Lake County Behavioral Health has services available to you, call 1-800-900-2075 any time 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Feelings such as overwhelming anxiety, constant worrying, trouble sleeping, and other depression-like symptoms are common responses before, during, and after wildfires. Other signs of emotional distress related to wildfires include:

- * Having thoughts, memories, or nightmares related to the wildfire that you can't seem to get out of your head
- * Worrying a lot of the time; feeling guilty but not sure why
- * Excessive absences from work or school

Other resources available include the Disaster Distress Helpline at 1-800-985-5990 or text TalkWithUs to 66746 in Spanish Call 1-800-985-5990 and press "2" From the U.S., text Hablanos to 66746

County of Lake, Health Services Department-

Environmental Health Division- Debris and Ash from Residential Fire may be Hazardous Ash and debris from burned buildings and homes can contain toxic substances due to the presence of synthetic and hazardous materials. Many building materials may contain asbestos and older buildings often contain lead. Household hazardous waste such as gasoline, cleaning products, pesticides, and other chemicals may have been stored in homes, garages, or sheds that may have burned in the fire. These materials can become concentrated in ash and soil following a fire. It is important not to expose yourself, your family or others to any of these materials. Exposures can occur by sifting through ash and debris, causing ash to become airborne and inhaled or ingested. Lake County Public Health is working to secure assistance from State agencies that will ensure proper handling and disposal of debris and ash from the fire. In the meantime, in order to protect their health and the health of their neighbors, property owners are strongly recommended to not begin cleanup activities. Because ash and debris generated in the fire may be considered hazardous waste, do not transport ash or debris to landfills and transfer stations at this time. It is recommended that debris and ash from burned structures remain undisturbed until further instructions are issued. This recommendation is in place to protect the health of anyone who may come into contact with the waste, including solid waste facility employees, solid waste haulers, and the public. All documents are available on the County of Lake website; <http://health.co.lake.ca.us> under Current Topics, Clayton Fire.

For more information call 707-263-1164

Please drive slowly as emergency personnel continue to operate in the area.

When you have the opportunity to re-enter your property and evaluate damage, be aware that hazardous conditions may exist, particularly if a residence or out-building has burned. Hazards may include asbestos, heavy metals, by-products of plastic combustion and various other chemicals.

For additional information, Lake County residents can visit:
www.LakeCountyRecovers.com

For additional information on returning home after a wildfire, go to:
WWW.ReadyForWildfire.org

###

